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020 Pierce County Democrats Endorsement Questionnaire
-Partisan Election-

Candidate name: Mike Pellicciotti
Position sought: State Treasurer
Date submitted: 03/30/20

Candidate qualities and conduct: The Pierce County Democratic Central Committee endorses and supports qualified Democrats seeking elected office. When deciding whether to recommend endorsement, the Endorsements Committee may consider the candidate’s dedication to Democratic Party values and principles, the viability of the campaign, and the candidate’s qualifications for office, among other things. Endorsed candidates are discouraged from supporting non-Democratic candidates or from supporting any candidate who doesn’t represent Democratic values. Endorsed candidates should distinguish themselves from any Democratic opponents in an objectively fair, informational, and non-confrontational fashion.

By submitting this endorsement questionnaire, I publicly affirm:

- I am a Democrat and will uphold Democratic Party values.
- I will abide by the above principles of conduct.

You may respond N/A (not applicable) if appropriate. Expand or decrease space as needed.

Questions

1. Why are you running for this particular office?

I was one of the first, and remain one of the only state elected officials to never accept corporate campaign donations. There is no more important position in state government to not have corporate campaign donation entanglements than the position of State Treasurer, which is responsible - directly or indirectly - for investing billions in public dollars. I am the only Democratic candidate for this office.

2. What are your qualifications (traditional or not) for seeking this elected office?

The position of State Treasurer brings together a unique mix of legal, legislative, state government, constitutional, and state public finance duties. I received my Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, with a minor in economics. During those studies I spent summers in finance, regional planning, and state economic benchmarking. I was selected as a United States Fulbright Scholar, where I was awarded a federal grant to study economic development in Canada, our largest trading partner at the time. I then received my Master’s degree in Rural Development and subsequently my Law Degree. At Gonzaga Law School, I was elected the national chair of the ABA Law Student Division and led national efforts advocating for student loan forgiveness. After working on state constitutional issues as a law clerk to the Associate Chief Justice of our Washington Supreme Court, I became a prosecuting attorney. I then joined

the Attorney General's Office, where I prosecuted corporate financial fraud and managed a unit that returned over \$30 million to taxpayers.

After beating a multi-term Republican incumbent to join the legislature in 2016, I represented South King and North Pierce Counties in the 30th legislative district of the House of Representatives, serving on the State Government, Transportation, and the Capital Budget Committees. Serving on these fiscal committees, I have worked on state public finance matters over the last four years. I was re-elected against the same former Republican legislator in 2018 by over 22 points.

As state representative, I introduced and passed into law the Corporate Crime Act to increase fraud penalties and modernize corporate structural laws, the Disclose Act to get "dark money" out of Washington politics, the PAC financial transparency act to have more donor transparency in our elections, and a bill to ban foreign corporate money in our campaigns.

3. What are the 1 - 3 most important issues for your district or your elected body/office?

1. Addressing the immediate economic development challenges facing our state
2. Enhancing financial government transparency
3. Promoting greater shareholder engagement to advance Washington interests

4. Why should the Pierce County Democratic Party support you for this position, and how have you demonstrated Democratic values?

I am running against a Trump-supporting Republican incumbent, who has been funded by the gun lobby, Big Tobacco, and corporate PACs. I am the only Democratic candidate. I have been proud to be consistently endorsed by the Pierce County Democratic Party and would be proud to again have that support. I have been a progressive leader in Olympia who has been a leader in getting corporate money out of politics, both in personal practice and with the laws that I have passed in Olympia. I will continue to advance policies that best serve the people of Washington.

5. When elected, how will you make yourself accessible, and how would you obtain constituent input on issues and decisions?

I have remained well connected with Democratic Party leaders in Olympia and will continue to do so as your State Treasurer.

6. How have you previously provided and how would you increase access and influence for people and groups that may lack them?

I have supported, and will continue to amplify the voices of underrepresented communities. This includes my continued support of candidates for office and in all other ways that give voice to those who have not been represented or heard in our governing bodies.

7. Do you support unrestricted access to reproductive health care for all women, including the right to abortion?

I have consistently supported policies in Olympia that address reproductive justice for all women and have always been endorsed in past elections by PP and NARAL.

8. What are the core functions of the elected office/body you seek; how can you improve them?

1. There is a need for greater legislative awareness of the important role of the State Treasurer, and with my experience and relationships will rebuild that relationship
2. There is a need for greater independence from corporate campaign donation entanglements, and with my refusal to accept corporate campaign donations will bring that independence.
3. There will be a need to address significant economic development challenges, and with my academic background in economic development and Democratic values, I will be able to advance them in a way that best serves all the people of Washington.

9. Please list any key endorsements.

I have been endorsed by our Washington's Democratic leaders, including Governor Jay Inslee, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz, Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and other Democratic Members of Congress -- and dozens of state legislators and local officials. I am also already endorsed by state and local labor organizations, including the state WEA, Plumbers & Pipefitters, and Machinists.

<http://www.electmikep.com/endorsements>

IF ELECTED TO THIS POSITION (*some questions may not be applicable*):

10. What would you do to ensure that your constituents each have a truly equal and fair opportunity to succeed based on merit and effort, rather than pre-existing status or classification?

To the extent allowable by law, I will apply an equity lens to the work of the office to ensure that the policies we are undertaking and the actions of our office are ensuring that we have equal and fair opportunity to succeed based on merit and effort.

11. What benefits and problems come from increasing population; how would you address them?

As we come out of our current economic challenges, with our increasing population, we will have to make sure that we support a fiscally sound and strong economic system that is best working for all Washingtonians.

12. How would you support workers, including union workers, whether employed privately or by government?

I have been consistently supported by labor, because I have focused on supporting working families and retirees throughout my legislative service. For those working families who are not a part of labor and who do not have retirement benefits, I will focus on how to address this public policy crises so as to avoid impacts on our operating revenue later.

13. What policies and actions would you take to protect and improve the natural environment?

I will significantly address climate change in this role. I will encourage shareholder engagement that is consistent with fiduciary duties to our retirees, but which recognizes the long-term interest we have as shareholders that energy companies move more quickly to renewables so that the companies are able to grow as we know future state regulations will require them to move more quickly into renewables.

14. What would you do to increase housing access and decrease income inequality?

As a legislator I consistently promoted policies that would allow for greater housing affordability and income inequality. I believe taxes disproportionately fall on working families and retirees, and as Treasurer, unlike the Trump-supporting Republican incumbent, I will work to address this inequality.

15. Identify any budget challenges for your elected office/body; how would you deal with them?

While the Office of the State Treasurer will not have specific budget challenges, the operating budget and the larger state economy will have challenges we have not before seen. Fixing these issues will be my primary focus.

16. How will you approach safety, police, and court system issues – and what are they?

As an attorney and financial crimes prosecutor, I have been focused on issues of public safety, court systems, and the rule of law throughout my career. As a legislator, I led one of the most significant criminal justice reform effort in recent years when I passed my Bail Jump reform bill this year, which made it no longer a crime for people accidentally miss court. To the extent this position interacts with these issues, I will continue to bring these values of justice, the rule of law, and fairness to all of my work.

17. Finally, any additional comments you would like to share with the Committee:

I'm proud Democrat. I've brought our campaign to half of our states 39 counties, including throughout Pierce County. I'm running against a Trump-supporting Republican incumbent, supported by the gun lobby, Big Tobacco, and Big Banks. Our grassroots campaign has united Democrats around the state, and I would value the endorsement of this organization.